

Testimony of Rep. Harvey Santana
Before the
Michigan House Commerce Committee

(January 15th, 2014 / 10:30 a.m. / 519 House Office Building / Lansing, MI 48933)

Chairman Foster ... Distinguished colleagues on the House Commerce Committee ... Good morning.

For the record, my name is Harvey Santana. I am honored to represent the great City of Detroit in the Michigan Legislature. I am joined this morning by Mr. Brian Kott of the Lewis and Munday Law Firm. He is representing the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, the city's foremost economic development agency ... and Kenneth Cole of GCSI, the city's long-time state lobbyist agent.

On behalf of the Honorable Mike Duggan, Mayor of the City of Detroit, I first want to sincerely thank Chairman Foster for hearing testimony on my House Bills 5131 and 5132 and appeal to the committee to pass the measures expeditiously.

The goal of this legislation is simple: To promote consistency in Michigan law by having the terms of political appointees to the governing boards of either a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority or an Economic Development Corporation expire at the same time as that of the elected official who named them to said panels. Doing so will increase accountability on these economic development boards.

You will recall that the Legislature passed similar legislation, signed into law by Governor Snyder, in the 96th session of the Michigan Legislature. Specifically, Representative John Walsh's House Bill 5463 of 2012 – now ***Public Act 396 of 2012*** – amended the Downtown Development Authority Act to treat political appointees to that type of body the same as what is being proposed in House Bills 5131 and 5132.

Again, thank you for considering this legislation. We are happy to entertain questions.